



PTO Meeting Minutes January 15, 2009

1. The meeting was called to order called to order at 6:32 pm.
2. **Introductions** – The Executive Board introduced themselves as well as Sara Harp, Assistant Principal. The following staff members were also present: Linda Eastering-P.E., Theresa Vogt-2nd grade, Tucker Wagner-2nd grade and Stephanie Basile-5th grade.
3. **Students' Presentation** – The following 4th grade students came to present their writings to the PTO community: Landon Ford, Sophie Kelly, Matt Strong, Stephanie Molitor and McKenna Highfield. Thanks to their parents for bringing them and to the students for sharing.
4. **Treasurer's Report (Toni Masters)** – The holiday craft fair, put on by teachers Nicole Keim, Renee Sherwood and Lisa Meier, resulted in \$996 from booth fees and bake sale proceeds. Thank you to the 3 of you for the donation. We also earned \$305 from Red Robin. Wendy Highfield donated \$220 from the holiday card making class where 24 kids came and made beautiful cards for the holiday. To date, the PTO has given back \$26,200 to Meridian. These fundraising results are a true team effort from the PTO board, parents, students, staff and teachers at Meridian. Thanks to everyone for their individual contributions and support.
5. **Holiday Adoption of Federal Heights Elementary (Ben Cooper)** – The PTO voted to adopt Federal Heights Elementary school for the holiday season. Through donations of Thanksgiving baskets and funds voted by the PTO, we were able to provide 217 Thanksgiving dinners. Before Christmas, we took 270 gifts donated by kids at Meridian to Federal Heights. We did end up spending \$1,600 of the \$2,000 that we were approved to spend to supplement the turkey baskets. When we went to deliver the turkeys and gifts, the staff and people there were overwhelmed by our generosity. Seeing the need down there – just a few miles from where we live – was pretty powerful. Jenn Weese asked some of the Student Council kids to go with us and it was pretty sobering for them to see how privileged our lives are. The people and staff were incredibly grateful for what Meridian did for them this year. We hope to expand this next year.
6. **SCRIP Update (Alyson Duchak)** – Alyson has been the SCRIP Coordinator since we started the program and is no longer able to continue doing that. She is relocating to the East Coast and is overwhelmed with all that she has to do to coordinate her move and is therefore stepping down immediately. There are 2 assistants in place who are willing to continue as the assistants. The time commitment is 6-9 hours a week to ensure that everything goes like it should. This year, we have profited \$2,500 to \$3,000 total for the school through approximately \$30,000 in total sales. Our average is about 8-10% of sales coming back to Meridian. On behalf of the PTO, Kris Rimbo expressed huge appreciation to Alyson for her leadership in starting this new program and for her time, passion and energy. Best wishes to you Alyson – we'll miss you!!!
7. **Calendar Review (Amy Helmick)** – At the beginning of the school year, we gave out a calendar that had a movie night planned for February 4th. Because the calendar is already jammed for February, we will not be doing the movie night. The upcoming activities are:
 - February 5th is Parent/Teacher Conferences. Volunteers and donations are needed to provide meals to the teachers during this long day. Donations from area restaurants are down due to the economy, so any help you can provide would be much appreciated. Flyer going home on Friday and there is a sign-up sheet here tonight. Kelley Fukanaga is the coordinator for this and so she doesn't have to bear the whole event on her shoulders, please sign-up!!! Thank you, Kelley, for everything you do in this area!
 - February 10th is Restaurant Night at Chick-fil-a at Larkridge from 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm.

- February 15th is Son Sport night at 3:05pm at the Broomfield Events Center to watch the Rage hockey team play. Deadline to order tickets is February 6th and checks MUST be made out to the Broomfield Ice. Checks made to Meridian will be returned. Flyer coming home soon. Thanks to Cosey Stones, Dani Thiret and their committee for their efforts in planning this.
- February 19th is the PTO meeting at 6:30 pm.
- February 20th is the Delightful Daughter Dance. More details to follow. The committee, headed up by Cosey Stones and Dani Thiret needs more volunteers. If you want to volunteer, contact Cosey or one of the PTO Board members and we will refer you to Cosey. Volunteers are needed for set up, break down and chaperoning.

8. **Spring Event Discussion (Cathy Painter)** – As far as April goes, we had reserved a date for a “Spring Fling” which was just a placeholder for some sort of Spring Fundraiser. Given the success of cookie dough fundraiser, the Board discussed a number of options including cancelling the April event or moving forward with a fundraiser and we’ve determined that it really is up to the PTO membership at large as to whether they want to plan and do a spring fundraiser. The economic conditions are one factor to consider, along with the need to have volunteers as well as how successful the cookie dough fundraiser was. On the other hand, there were a number of other important funding requests that weren’t funded and if we did a fundraiser we could potentially fund some of those other things. Cathy asked for input on this:

- There was some discussion and then Sarah Bender said she would coordinate a read-a-thon that wouldn’t involve an event. Sarah has done this type of event at another school and the way it worked was that the kids would have a 2-week period where they would count minutes or pages (TBD), get sponsors for a flat amount, per page or per minute. Then the read-a-thon would happen and the funds raised would benefit Meridian.
- There was also discussion that we should hold another vote before the fundraiser so that people would know what their funds would be going to. The hope would be to fund things that didn’t get funding through the vote in November and to allow anyone with new requests to submit it for this time around.
- Sarah said that Diane Sandstrom and Susan Faltinson would also help with a committee.
- Kris called for a vote and the idea of doing a Spring Read-a-Thon passed unanimously.
- Thank you, Sarah, for your willingness to step up.

9. **Overview of the PTO Board Positions for 2009-2010 School Year (PTO Officers)** -- All the positions are up for election, with the exception of Treasurer which Ben, the current Assistant will automatically move into per the Bylaws. The only other position that may not be open for election would be President. The bylaws allow for a current Officer (except the Asst. Treasurer) to remain in or move into that position without a vote. No one on the current Board has indicated as of yet whether they will be moving into the President position. Current Board members who spoke about their positions were Susan (Co-Staff Appreciation), Leslie (Secretary), Ben (Assistant Treasurer), Toni (Treasurer), Kris (President), Cathy (Co-Vice President) and Amy (Co-Vice President).

10. **Event / Communication Procedures (Sara Harp)** – We are a growing school with lots of different events and ideas and a great group of motivated parents. It has become apparent that we need to figure out how to streamline the process for coordinating events and getting communications about those events approved. We want to ensure that everyone has a chance to be heard. Therefore, we are going to document some pretty clear procedures about how events are managed both from a monetary perspective as well as a communications perspective. The PTO Vice Presidents are the key liaison, as governed by the Bylaws and the Secretary will review and approve all communications to ensure that Sara and Jenn are not getting inundated with requests. The Secretary will ensure that the office has approved all flyers before they are approved for copying and distribution. We are hoping to alleviate the problem of flyers going home without approval, and to be very clear about how event money is handled. There will be a note on that in the February newsletter and we’re asking for everyone’s compliance with the procedures.

11. The meeting was adjourned at 7:26 p.m.